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From: chuck <chuck@cei.net>
To: A20.A20(kwerbach)
Date: 4/19/96 1:15pm
Subject: Internet Phone

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Gentlemen:

With the cost of living being what it is, I would like to make a case for the elimination of monopolistic rulings involving communications.

The telephone companies (formerly AT&T) and thousands of small independent operations, have recouped their costs of doing business many times over at our expense.

When the telephone was invented, it changed the way the world did business. How many years ago? If there is a better way of doing things at a reduced cost to the end consumer, it is not a function of government to deny this to the people. Government is for the people not for a business. It is the people who elect our representatives and pay our government employees. In this regard, I urge you to deny any action towards carrying on the monopolies of telephone carriers and stopping the internet phone. This is truly an innovation that will revolutionize the way business is conducted.

The actions of the carriers in this matter (in their own self-serving interests), would be like the U.S. Postal Service asking you to deny the people e-mail, because they are losing revenue. If the carriers were smart, they would develop their own programs and equipment to get into the wave of the future. The United States has always led the world in innovation and to hamper that creativity destroys the essence of our existence.

Sincerely,
Charles Groetzinger chuck@cei.net
Fairfield Bay, Arkansas

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From: Steve Lawrenz <lawrenz@eskimo.com>
To: A16.A16(rm8775),FCCMAIL.SMTP("lawrenz@mail.eskimo....
Date: 4/19/96 12:26pm
Subject: Comments re Petition to Regulate Internet Telephone Products

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I understand that an organization called America's Carriers Telecommunication Association has filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission to regulate the sale and/or use of products that facilitate the use of the internet to carry two-way real-time voice communication. While it certainly may be true that the availability of such products could modestly reduce the demand for voice long distance services sold by ACTA members, such members may, and in most cases do, also sell long distance data exchange services that are used to carry internet data traffic. If the products in question are popular enough to incur the kind of substantial use that would be required to noticeably affect the demand for voice long distance services, data exchange volume requirements for the internet will increase, causing those who manage internet data exchange to purchase more long distance data exchange services from ACTA members.

If the cost of data exchange services required to make a typical long distance call is less than the cost of the voice long distance services required to make the same call, I submit that this is a cost efficiency to be enjoyed by those who make long distance calls. I understand that ACTA has argued that its members' data exchange services are subsidized by their voice long distance services. If this is true, I find it ironic, and even perverse, that a less efficient service can be made to subsidize a more efficient one.

Thank you for considering my comments.

--Steve Lawrenz, lawrenz@eskimo.com

CC: Steve Lawrenz <lawrenz@mail.eskimo.com>

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From: root@grouchy.renraku.com <elarsen@baker.cnw.com>
To: A20.A20(kwerbach)
Date: 4/19/96 6:02am
Subject: ACTA proceedings..

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SIR:

I have just read the ACTA petition and am amazed by the patent absurdity of the organizations proposing this petition be considered.

1. Internet Phone programs/hardware are not telecommunications devices.
2. Internet Phone programs/hardware use telecommunications lines that
 - A. Are being paid for by the person using above mentioned hardware and software.
 - B. Are being paid for by the person receiving above mentioned hardware and software.
3. The Internet is supported by the US Taxpayers, the service providers and the companies that develop the software necessary for data telecommunications. Unless I am mistaken, the phone companies only provide "pipe" (data bandwidth) for the internet.
4. Internet Phone type hardware functions through an audio card. Data is then transmitted via a modem over the internet to the recipient where it is converted back into audio. Nowhere along the line is there a direct connection to the POTS system.

If the ACTA petition is considered and acted upon, the following may be a realistic result:

1. Several software companies go out of business.
2. Modem manufacturer's will not be able to sell their products without expensive redesign.
3. The telephone companies may want to have the following technologies listed as equivalent to Internet Phone technologies:
 - a. Intelligent Answering Machines (such as Voice Mail)
 - b. Any Telecommunications based VideoConferencing system (ala CUCME "See you See Me")
 - c. Any electronic data interchange protocol or program that moves voice based data across the Internet.

If the ACTA petition is turned into legislation, I would be really curious to find out just what the FCC thinks reality is. The Phone companies are not the friends of the Internet. They are not the friends of Industry. Their whole goal in life is to make money for themselves, no matter what. They have no corporate ethics. If they did, why does the FCC exist?

As I see it, the reason for the existence of the FCC is to control the abuse of the American people received from the phone companies, the radio broadcasters and the television industries and NOT the Internet.

Thank you, and I apologize for the tirade.

-Erik Larsen elarsen@baker.cnw.com

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= Microsoft can have my modem when they take my cold, dead computer away. =
= If it computes, TCP/IP it. If it can't TCP/IP, put a Un*x on it. =
= If you can't afford a Un*x, get Linux. If it won't run Linux =
= GET A REAL MACHINE! =
===== elarsen@baker.cnw.com ===== http://www.cnw.com/~elarsen/index.html =====
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